



**MISSION**

Perform the armed reconnaissance mission for attack helicopter and air cavalry units.

**DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS**

The Comanche (RAH-66) is the Army's next-generation helicopter, designed to perform the armed reconnaissance and light-attack reconnaissance mission. The Comanche will significantly expand the Army's capability to conduct reconnaissance operations in all battlefield environments, day or night, and during adverse weather. The Comanche will protect the force with its advanced electro-optical sensors, aided-target recognition, and sensor/weapons integration.

Comanche's digital communications capacity will enhance the Army's capability to win the battlefield information war, and allow interface with the Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) and other joint sensors and weapons platforms. Comanche's design for rapid rearm, refuel, and repair will increase the tempo of operations. With low observability, target recognition, and digitized communications, the Comanche can conduct deep, precision-strike missions against time-sensitive targets. The Comanche will replace three types of helicopters (AH-1, OH-58, and OH-6) that currently perform the armed reconnaissance mission.

**Crew:** 2 pilots (single-pilot operable)

**Speed:** 175 kt (dash)

**Endurance:** 2.5 hr (plus 20-minute reserve)

**Armaments:** 20 mm turreted gatling gun, air-to-ground and air-to-air missiles

**Mission Equipment Package:** Advanced electro-optical target acquisition and designation system, aided target recognition, and helmet-mounted display. Each aircraft will have provisions to incorporate a fire control radar.

**FOREIGN COUNTERPART**

French/German: Tigre

**FOREIGN MILITARY SALES**

None

**PROGRAM STATUS**

**Current** Milestone II decision. Milestone II decision expected 2QFY00.

Comanche is in development, with two prototype aircraft in active flight test status. The program plan is to build an additional five prototype aircraft to complete development testing, followed by eight aircraft which will be devoted to initial pilot training and operational testing.

**PROJECTED ACTIVITIES**

**2QFY04** Begin flight testing of pre-production prototype aircraft.

**2QFY05** Low-rate initial production decision.

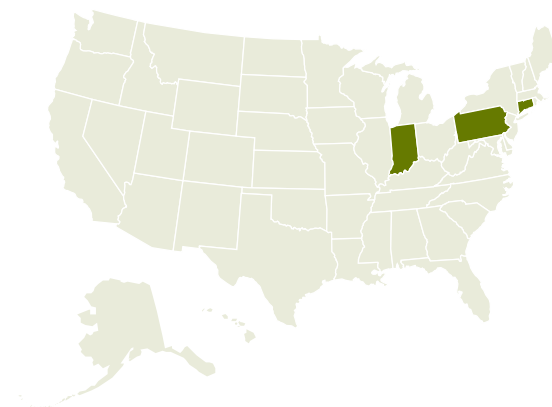
**FY07** Commence full-rate production after successful completion of initial operational test and evaluation.

**1QFY07** Planned initial fielding and operational capability.

**PRIME CONTRACTORS**

**Aircraft:** Boeing and Sikorsky Team (Philadelphia, PA; Stratford, CT)

**Engine:** AlliedSignal/Rolls-Royce (Allison Engines) Team (Indianapolis, IN)



\* See appendix for list of subcontractors

